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August 1, 2011

Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings

AUG 9 - 2011

Part of
Public Record

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35455
Wisconsin Department of Transportation Almena, Cameron, Rice Lake
Rail Line Project

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing in support of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's ("WisDOT") petition for a declaratory ruling in relation to its Almena, Cameron, Rice Lake Rail Line Project. The project promises economic revitalization in rural Wisconsin and its success is a high priority for my Administration. I am hopeful you will expedite the Surface Transportation Board's ("STB") issuance of the order WisDOT has requested.

Approval of WisDOT's petition will help ensure continued freight rail service to several small Wisconsin communities. Funding for the project includes a combination of state grants, a Federal Railroad Administration grant, additional funding from two Wisconsin counties and a future freight rail customer. This funding will be used to acquire the existing rail line and provide for its rehabilitation.

There is broad community support for the project because it will create much needed economic stimulus in a rural community. I would also be remiss if I did not point out that the local rural economy has been substantially hurt by the loss of jobs and downturn in the agricultural industry. An opportunity like this would bring immediate economic benefits to an area in desperate need of good jobs.

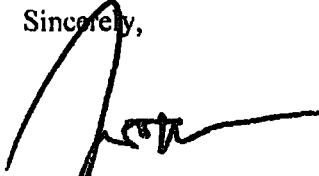
Rehabilitating this rail line will also create construction jobs. Additional jobs will be created in operating the rail line as the volume of shipments grows. Approximately sixty jobs are expected to be created following the construction of a new \$50 million sand processing facility. It is important to note that a decision on the WisDOT petition, which provides assurance that rail service will be available, is needed before the industry can move forward with its new facility.

Mr. Chairman, the STB's action on WisDOT's petition is the singular, critical item in terms of moving this project forward. This project has the potential to generate a substantial number of well-paying jobs and to generate millions of dollars in economic stimulus through ensuring the

continuation of freight rail service. With that in mind, I strongly encourage the STB to grant WisDOT's petition no later than August 31, 2011.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office at 608-266-1212.

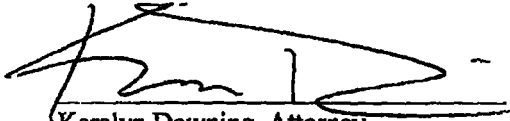
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Walker", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Walker
Governor
State of Wisconsin

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing letter in regards to **FD35455**, by electronic mail, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1104.12, this 9th day of August, 2011, to be served on all parties of record on the service list.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karalyn Downing', is written over a horizontal line.

Karalyn Downing, Attorney

Bar No. 1085039

Assistant Legal Counsel

Office of Governor Scott Walker